



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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EXCISE

September 20, 1985

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Senior Interagency Group No. 54

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny ( ) Declassify  
Date 2/22/02 Exemption 1.5

PARTICIPANTS: See List Attached

DATE AND TIME: September 13, 1985, 3:15 P.M. Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
( ) Classify as (X) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date 2/24/02 Declassify on 25X1 Reason

PLACE: Secretary's Conference Room

SUBJECT: SIG Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance for Nicaraguan  
Resistance Forces, September 13, 1985

Secretary Shultz opened the meeting by stressing the importance of getting the funds to those for whom they were intended quickly and enthusiastically, but with care to remain true to the Congressional purpose in voting the funds. It is important to administer the program so as: (1) to aid our friends in Nicaragua; and (2) to contribute to developing support for the President's program.

The Secretary wanted SIG participants to have an opportunity to express their views as the program got under way. Assistant Secretary Abrams and his Interagency Group will watch over the program, provide policy guidance, and ensure that the activities of the new organization are fully coordinated with the situation in Nicaragua.

The Secretary introduced Ambassador Duemling, the newly designated Director of the Nicaraguan Humanitarian Assistance Office (NHAO). Ambassador Duemling's role will be to create a system to administer the assistance program. A priority task will be to establish proper auditing and monitoring measures. Assistant Secretary Abrams and the IG will need to identify appropriate recipients.

Ambassador Duemling reported on his progress to date. He noted that his first Congressional appearance will be before Lee Hamilton's Committee on September 19. On September 18, he will be joining Assistant Secretary Abrams in a meeting with the

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leadership of the Unified Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO). UNO must understand the guidelines under which the program will operate to ensure that UNO requests are appropriate.

Ambassador Deumling identified three interrelated issues to be addressed:

(1) How to ensure that what is provided stays within the limits of the law and the policy guidance provided by the Abrams Interagency Group;

(2) How to establish adequate accountability without inhibiting unnecessarily the flow of assistance;

(3) How to assemble a qualified staff to administer the program.

All agencies noted that administration of the program would be difficult and pledged their full support to ensure the NHAO's success.

Secretary Shultz closed the meeting by noting that his purpose in attending the first meeting of the SIG was to underscore the importance of this initiative. Under Secretary Armacost will chair subsequent meetings. The Secretary was confident that Ambassador Duemling could count on the support of all agencies in carrying out his responsibilities.

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SIG MEETING

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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUAN RESISTANCE FORCES

September 13, 1985, 3:15 p.m.

Secretary's Conference Room

PARTICIPANTS

State

Secretary Shultz, Chairman  
Under Secretary Armacost  
Assistant Secretary Abrams  
Robert Deumling  
William Walker  
James Michel  
Richard Milton, Notetaker

NSC

ADM John M. Poindexter  
LTC Oliver North

CIA

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Defense

Fred Ikle  
Richard Armitage

JCS

ADM Arthur Moreau  
COL Stephen Crocker

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